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February 1956

# M I N U T E S

of the

# MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

# WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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Gilbulla, Menangle, Australia
February 6 - 11, 1956

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The meeting was called to order at 4.30 p.m. on February 6th by Dr. Fry in the chair, and was opened with prayer by Dr.Payne.

Agenda
The Agenda as submitted was accepted as a general guide for discussions.

Attendance

Presidents
Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri
Bishop Otto Dibelius
Metropolitan Juhanon Mar Thoma

Chairman
Dr.Franklin Clark Fry

Vice-Chairman
Dr.Ernest A.Payne

Members of the Executive Committee
Dr.Eugene Carson Blake
Dr.Kathleen Bliss
Prof.Josef Hromadka
Bishop G.Bromley Oxnam
Dean Liston Pope
Bishop Lakdasa De Mel

Invited to Attend
Bishop James of Melita

Staff
Dr.W.A.Visser 't Hooft
Dr.Leslie E.Cooke
Dr.O.Frederick Nolde
Mr.F.Northam
Rev.Philip Potter

Members of Central Committee Invited for first two days
Rev.R.B.Lew
The Most Rev.H.W.K.Mowll
Rev.C.Denis Ryan
Bishop A.K.Warren

Guests invited for first two days

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev.Alan A.Brash | New Zealand (N.C.C.) |
| Rev.F.Byatt | Secretary, Inter-Church Aid(Australia) |
| Rev.V.Coombes | Presbyterian Church of Australia |
| Hon.J.J.Dedman | Director of Resettlement (Australia) |
| Mrs.H.Ennor | Congregational Union of New Zealand |

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|---|---|
| Rev.Dr.Malcolm G.Mackay | General Secretary of the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches |
| Rt.Rev.J.Moyes | Bishop of Armidale |
| Rev.A.K.Petch | Methodist Church of New Zealand |
| Rev.Dr.Winburn Thomas | Indonesia (N.C.C.Committee on Missions) |
| Mr.E.J.Ward | Presbyterian Church of New Zealand |
| Principal E.Lyall Williams | Churches of Christ in New Zealand |
| Ven.Robin Woods | Singapore (Church of England) |

4. Messages

Greetings and good wishes for the Executive Meeting were received from the Rev.Peter Dagadu, Pastor M.Niemöller, Dr.Robert C.Mackie, the Bishop of Chichester and Dr.John Baillie.

5. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Davos were accepted as circulated and confirmed.

6. Report of General Secretary

Dr.Visser 't Hooft referred to the passing of two men who had made a great contribution to the ecumenical movement, Dr.Garbett, the Archbishop of York, and Dr.Pierre Maury of France.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported on the changes that had taken place at the staff level during 1955 and referred to the departure of Dr.Robert C.Mackie and Dr.H.Kraemer. He referred to the establishment, with the newly constituted staff,of working parties in regard to topics of special importance.

The work of the Council had been strengthened by the receipt of the third major gift from Mr.Rockefeller, which had made possible in particular the strengthening of the work of the Division for Studies and the erection of staff houses at Bossey.

Important developments had taken place in relations with churches both member churches and non-member churches. Dr.Visser 't Hooft referred to the constructive attitude of the American Lutheran Churches in negotiations with other Lutheran Churches and the decision of the Baptist Union of Scotland to withdraw from membership in the Council.

Renewed contact has been established in some degree with the Church of Latvia and churches in China, and it is hoped that Dr.Manikam will be able to accept an invitation to China in the near future.

The Executive would be considering the reply received from the Russian Orthodox Church and would be hearing a full account of the suffering of the churches in Constantinople in regard to which the World Council had taken rather unusual action in not only providing through the churches special Inter-Church Aid contributions, but also sending a strong Mission of Fellowship to Constantinople.

The Executive would require to give attention to the crisis in the position of Protestants in Spain caused by the recent closing of the Theological Faculty in Madrid, shortly after Spain had been admitted to the United Nations. There are several places in the world where the situation in regard to religious liberty is of the utmost seriousness.

The position in South East Asia was demanding increasing attention from the World Council in view of the impending change in the East Asia Secretariat; the development of Inter-Church Aid responsibilities in Asia, and the increasing problem connected with the interchange of workers between Asian churches. The whole work of the Council in Asia and its relation to the I.M.C. was raised afresh by the recent establishment of an Asian Council on Ecumenical Mission.

Dr.Fry expressed the thanks of the Executive for the Secretary's report.

IT WAS AGREED that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr.Rockefeller in connection with the receipt of his gift.

IT WAS AGREED that a letter of sympathy be sent to Madame Maury in connection with the death of her husband.

IT WAS AGREED that greetings be sent to the Bishop of Chichester expressing the regret of the Executive at his first absence since the Amsterdam Assembly.

Report on the damage suffered by Greek Orthodox Churches in Istanbul September 6th, 1955

A letter was received from the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople expressing warm appreciation of the sympathy and support of the W.C.C. in the time of suffering of his people.

The Chairman reported that an appropriate answer would be sent.

Bishop James of Melita expressed his deep personal gratitude for the fellowship he had received in the W.C.C. and conveyed the thanks of the Orthodox Church and the Greek speaking community in Istanbul for the generosity of the W.C.C. in material help and the expressions of solidarity received from many member churches. He spoke of the attack on 78 churches of which many were completely destroyed; the destruction of schools and of many thousands of shops and homes.

The Turkish Government is considering the payment of compensation, but meanwhile the Churches and their people are suffering prolonged privation.During this time the actions and attitude of the World Council have made a tremendous impression on the Churches.

Bishop Dibelius indicated that he would be calling on the Patriarch of Istanbul on his return and IT WAS AGREED that he should convey the concern of the Executive.

Dr.Cooke outlined the action taken by the Division of Inter-Church Aid. Several hundred tons of supplies had been sent and an immediate contribution of $ 16,500 (U.S.).After the report of the Mission of Fellowship and at their request, an appeal for $ 75,000 to be administered by the Ecumenical Patriarch for relief work was launched among the churches. Gifts were being received and over $ 30,000 had already been contributed.

Dr.Nolde, speaking on behalf of the C.C.I.A., spoke of steps taken in dealing with various Governments.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

" The Executive Committee of the W.C.C. meeting at Gilbulla on February 6th, 1956 has received a full report of the tragic events which occurred in Istanbul on September 6th, 1955 which resulted in so much suffering among Christians in Turkey and such devastation among the churches. The Committee has also received a report of the action taken by the General Secretariat to call the attention of the churches to these events and to give moral support to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in its just demand for compensation and of the action taken by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs in making representations to Governments. The Committee has also received the report of the Mission of Fellowship which with the approval of the officers of the Executive Committee was sent to Istanbul and has also heard of the actions taken by the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees in organising immediate measures of relief. In the light of these reports the Executive Committee -

(1) Expresses its deepest sympathy with His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the members of his flock in Istanbul.

(2) Endorses the action of its officers, the General Secretariat, and the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs.

(3) Receives with great appreciation the report of the Mission of Fellowship.

(4) Confirms the action of its officers and the General Secretariat in initiating the appeal for $ 75,000 made through the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees on the recommendation of the Mission of Fellowship .

(5) Instructs the General Secretariat, the Commissions and Divisions concerned, to continue to give all possible assistance to the Christians in Istanbul and to support the Ecumenical Patriarchate in its just demands for adequate compensation and for guarantees against a recurrence of the events of September 1955."

8. Asia Council on Ecumenical Mission

Dr.Winburn Thomas spoke of the historical antecedents of the meeting in Hongkong in July 1955, at which the A.C.E.M. was formally established and at which he had been present. Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported on the reception of a number of documents from the A.C.E.M.brought to Davos by Bishop Sobrepena. Very great issues were involved which the W.C.C. and I.M.C. had had no opportunity to discuss with their constituencies.

A letter was sent back to the A.C.E.M. in reply signed on behalf of the I.M.C. and the W.C.C. by their General Secretaries. This letter had expressed warm appreciation of certain objectives of the A.C.E.M. but considerable concern about some aspects of the new organisation and in particular with the implications of the name. Various reactions had been received from Asian Churches and it had been mutually agreed that a consultation between the A.C.E.M. and a considerable representation of the member churches of the W.C.C. and the member councils of the I.M.C. should take place at Bangkok in March.

Various speakers who came from Asia or who had recently visited churches in that area made it clear that there was much interest in the basic purpose of the A.C.E.M. but that many of the churches had little knowledge of the new organisation and had not yet received invitations to membership,although it was quite clear that the A.C.E.M. was not exclusive in intention.

It was reported that a consultation had been called by the I.M.C. and W.C.C. in Bangkok on March 8th - 11th to allow full discussions between a number of people invited by these bodies and generally representative of the member churches,with members of the Asian Council of Ecumenical Mission.

Some members of the Executive Committee would also be present, and it was important that they should know the mind of the Committee if possible.

Dr.Fry suggested that the first question to deal with should be the whole subject of the East Asia Secretariat and the functions which might be attached to it. Should the Secretariat become a clearing house for the exchange of personnel?

Dean Pope suggested that this exchange was the foundation of the whole organisation and that most of the functions of the A.C.E.M. as listed could actually be performed by the East Asia Secretariat except for the receipt and spending of funds.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft explained that at the time of the appointment of the East Asia Secretariat, the Asian member churches had decided that they did not want a regional Asian Council but it now appeared that at least some of them were reconsidering the matter.

Dr.Blake said that the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America was in the process of "liquidating its missions" and instead appointing fraternal workers on the request of indigenous churches.

Dr.Bliss suggested that perhaps an I.C.A. Advisory Group could be established in Asia and work with the East Asia Secretariat. It must be understood of course that this would be Inter-Church Aid in the strict sense as distinct from relief activities.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft defined the three possibilities before the W.C.C. -

1. That the Council develop the East Asia Secretariat so that interchange of churchworkers is included in its mandate.

2. That the Council establish in addition to the East Asia Secretariat a representative advisory group, to meet periodically, and to which the W.C.C. and I.M.C. would delegate responsibility of various kinds.

3. That a fully representative Asian Council of Churches be established.

Dr.Cooke added the further suggestion that an Asian Conference of member churches be created which would have definite relationships with the W.C.C. and which would allow for the devolution of some work now centred in Geneva.

After discussion IT WAS AGREED as follows:

1. That the consultation be advised to consider in the first place the possibility of widening the scope of the East Asia Secretariat, so as to include the interchange of churchworkers.
2. That consideration be given to the establishment of a representative council of Asian Churches to assist the East Asia Secretariat.
3. That such a council should also act as an advisory body on Inter-Church Aid in Asia.
4. That the membership be confined to member churches of the W.C.C. in Asia.

IT WAS FURTHER AGREED that the representatives of the Executive Committee in the consultation should be Bishop Oxnam, Dean Pope, Dr.R.Chandran and associated with them Dr.Visser 't Hooft, Dr.Cooke and Bishop Manikam.

9. Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees

Dr.Leslie Cooke, in presenting his report, referred to the many changes on the staff of the Division. Another change was the fact that in 1955 the Division attempted its first listing of world needs though its involvement in Europe was not in any way diminished.

Contributions to both project and service programmes have increased and prospects for 1956 are encouraging. Special sums have made possible the strengthening of national co-operative activities particularly in the Near East, Kenya, Malaya and Viet Nam.

The deficit on Travel Loan activities which had been anticipated at $ 50,000, had, owing to rapidly expanding programme, reached a total of $ 400,000 and the policy of the Division is being modified to bring it under the control of financial considerations. It is still anticipated that there should be a movement of 4,000 people per annum.

Three emergencies had demanded special attention, namely Kenya, floods in Pakistan and India, and the riots in Istanbul. It is worthy of special note that many churches which have received help are now increasingly contributing to the Division, especially churches in Germany and Holland. There is as yet little or no indication of the kind of support the Asian programme will receive.

Dr.Cooke concluded by expressing appreciation of the growing interest in, and support for the Division, in Australia and New Zealand. Considerable discussion took place on the type of project the Division could assist in Asia, on the re-settlement of refugees and their integration into the churches, and the whole function of the Division throughout the world.

The Chairman warmly thanked Dr.Cooke for the able presentation of his report which revealed the continued expansion of the work of the Division.

The following resolution was adopted :

"The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches has received the report from the General Secretary and the Director of Inter-Church

Aid concerning the agreements reached by the Sub-Committee of the Joint Committee at St.Albans by which the General Secretary of the I.M.C. agreed -

1. To circulate to Mission Boards and Missionary Societies the relevant documents of the D.I.C.A.S.R.

2. To introduce the Director of D.I.C.A.S.R. and the Divisional Secretary of non-European countries to the leaders of the Mission Boards for consultation concerning the Asian programme of the Division.

3. To ensure the attendance of representatives of the Mission Boards and Societies at the annual consultation of the Division.

The Executive Committee welcomes an approves the recommendations on behalf of the World Council of Churches and requests the Director and the Administrative Committee of the D.I.C.A.S.R. further to co-operate with the I.M.C. and the Missionary agencies in matters relating to the development of the work of the Division in lands outside Europe.

The Executive Committee also notes with satisfaction the agreement reached by the Sub-Committee on the categories of needs which the World Council will seek to meet through the D.I.C.A.S.R.

(a) Needs arising from situations which are strictly of an emergency character created by natural disasters, economic crises, political and social upheavals, etc.

(b) The needs of refugees and homeless people.

(c) The needs of churches not in regular relations with any missionary society and therefore not normally receiving help from this source.

(d) Urgent inter-church and ecumenical projects, whether designed for the strengthening of the churches' witness or the service of the community, in so far as these cannot be supported adequately either from the local sources or through mission board action.

(e) Church work originally aided by a missionary society which can no longer continue its help although the need for assistance is still recognised.

(f) New projects in the field of social service or relief clearly demanded by the local situation but beyond the resources of the churches or the missionary societies co-operating with them.

(g) Experiments aimed at ensuring the self support of the church or Christian community, where these have been adequately examined and duly commended.

and expressed the hope that when these proposals are presented to the I.M.C. and Joint Committee they will be favourably received."

Dr.Cooke reported on the suggestion for the holding of a second conference concerning the Arab refugees and <u>the following resolution was adopted</u>: -

" The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches having noted the agreement whereby the D.I.C.A.S.R. has been requested to set up, on behalf of the W.C.C. and I.M.C., a second conference on Arab Refugee Problems, authorises the Director of the D.I.C.A.S.R. to proceed with the necessary arrangements in consultation with the officers of both bodies and of C.C.I.A.

10. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Dr.Nolde reviewed the activities of the Commission throughout the year. He indicated that there had been changes of staff and that a number of staff members had undertaken long journeys in connection with the Commission's work.

Important matters which had been dealt with at the 10th Session of the United Nations had been studied by the Commission and many appropriate representations made. The Commission would be involved in a number of future meetings including a Conference planned to bring together those studying the two Evanston topics, Responsible Society and International Affairs, and a Conference which would be held some time during the year in connection with the Arab refugee problem.

Situations arising from the violation of religious liberty were a special concern of the Commission and involved many difficult problems of strategy. An endeavour had been made in all the concerns of the Commission to keep the 21 national commissions fully informed.

Bishop Dibelius, on behalf of Dr.Niemöller, raised the question of whether the Executive intended to take any action to express its opposition to the testing of nuclear weapons. Dr.Visser 't Hooft referred to the booklet recently published by the Bishop of Chichester, "Nuclear War and Peace". Dr.Nolde indicated that the C.C.I.A. policy was, in such matters, to view each separate aspect of disarmament within the total picture rather than to endeavour to get political action on one particular detail.

Bishop Barbieri reported on the position in Colombia and South America generally. It appears that persecution was on the increase in Colombia While it was to some extent a political persecution and to some extent a persecution by fanatical religious groups, there was abundant evidence that there had been many instances of real persecution of responsible Protestant Christians.

In Argentine on the other hand, there was more religious liberty than previously and in Bolivia more than ever before. The situation in Colombia is now an exception to the general South American pattern. Dr.Nolde indicated that it was under consideration whether Sir Kenneth Grubb and he might visit Colombia in this connection.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported on the situation in Spain with special reference to communications he had just received regarding the closing of the Protestant Theological Seminary in Madrid. Bishop Barbieri spoke of the tragic situation of the Protestants in Spain as he had seen it in August 1955.

After discussion the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"That the Executive Committee of the World Council, deeply disturbed by the news that the Protestant Theological Seminary in Madrid has been closed by the action of the Spanish authorities, protests against this most serious infringement of religious liberty which at the very time of Spain's entrance into the United Nations, contradicts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principle of respect for the rights of religious minorities.

The Executive Committee instructs the General Secretariat and the C.C.I.A. to take all appropriate steps to secure the continuation of the Theological Seminary which performs an indispensable service for the Spanish Protestant Churches."

11. Division of Ecumenical Action

The Rev.Philip Potter presented the report of the Division. The rather varied Departments within the Division had increasingly grown together throughout the year as it was seen that each in its way emphasised the wholeness and oneness of the Church - Men and Women, Laity, Youth and the Ecumenical Institute.

The Rev.Francis House as Director of the Division had worked in close contact with each Department toward this end and had also had relationships with the I.M.C.

As a result of the former initiative of the Ecumenical Institute, a federation of European lay institutes had now been formed and it was anticipated that a brochure of information about these Institutes would shortly be available.

The Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women, had established mixed study commissions, and Dr.Barot had visited U.S.A. and Canada. IT WAS AGREED that this Department should serve the great Christian womens organisations of the churches throughout the world in so far as their international contacts were concerned.

The Youth Department had arranged a series of conferences among young people including some meetings on Faith and Order. Twenty nine work camps had been held in 20 countries with 850 campers in 1955, and for 1956 40 camps in 25 countries were planned.

There was considerable discussion on the question of the implementing by the member churches of the resolutions of Evanston concerning Racial and Ethnic Tensions. It was suggested that Dr.Oscar Lee might be available because of special personal qualifications to make an investigation along these lines. The question was raised as to whether it was appropriate that an American should be used for this particular inquiry. Dr.Blake reported on the informal meetings being arranged in the Southern States by Dr.Barnes of the N.C.C.C./U.S.A. to endeavour to increase understanding between contending parties.

It was then resolved that -

" The Division of Ecumenical Action be urged to carry forward with urgency the concerns expressed in Section V of the Evanston Report and in the Resolutions on Race Relations adopted by the Second Assembly, and that, to this end, efforts be made immediately to obtain a staff member, at least on an interim basis, to direct action in this field, with a special effort to obtain extra funds for this purpose if necessary."

Dr.Bliss reported on certain matters concerning the Ecumenical Institute where a full course of the Graduate School was in progress. She emphasised the need for churches to send their best theological students and raised the question as to whether or not there was adequate selection by the sending church before these students were admitted. Some problems had arisen when students who did not agree with the W.C.C. Basis had been asked to lead in worship.

IT WAS AGREED that the Board of the Bossey Institute should be asked to think through again the kind of recommendation required from the churches of students desiring to attend the school and that the question of leadership in worship should be regarded as a problem which could only be settled in a pastoral way by the Director.

Dr.Bliss emphasised that valuable as is the contribution of the staff to the students, the contribution of the students to one another is equally great, if not greater. There is no more fruitful way in which funds can be spent than facilitating the attendance of good students not otherwise able to attend.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft raised the matter of the selection of visiting professors and in answer to a question, indicated that the Board of the Institute was always glad to receive suggestions concerning names of teachers who might be available for a short period possibly during Sabbatical leave. (Bishop Barbieri suggested the following names - Baez Camargo, George Haword, Albert Rembao).

The question of the furnishing of the Chapel of the Institute was raised by Dr.Bliss who outlined the suggestions in the mind of the Director and the Board. Such furnishings would have to be movable and in tone with the Chapel itself. In the light of the following discussion, IT WAS AGREED that the Executive Committee of the Board of the Institute be authorised to proceed with the furnishing of the Chapel.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft raised the matter of securing an adjustment in the relationship between the School of Graduate Studies and the University of Geneva in order to secure that the school had a full right to confer the title of Professor upon members of its staff. This involved the representation of the Government of Geneva on the Board and the adjustment of the Constitution as follows: -

Add to Artcile 2
" The représentative of the State of Geneva in the Council of Trustees of the Faculty of Theology will also be a member of the Board".

Delete old Article 4 and replace by:
" Article 4. The Board appoints the permanent professors. The teaching staff is composed of the permanent professors, of the lecturers (chargés de cours), and of the visiting professors and other visiting teachers, who are invited by the Board to lecture for a specified period of time".

12. Division of Studies

The Report was presented by Dr.Visser 't Hooft who reported that the officers of the Executive Committee as authorised by the Central Committee had asked Sir Thomas Taylor to become Chairman of the Commission on "Christians and the Prevention of War in an Atomic Age; a Theological Discussion".

IT WAS AGREED that the Executive Committee should heartily approve and confirm the action taken by its officers.

In discussion on this study commission, Dr.Nolde raised the question of the meaning of "A Theological Discussion". Is it a study of the whole matter of the prevention of war, by a group of theologians? In this case it would involve the giving of day to day directives to the C.C.I.A. which was committed to this end. Or was it intended that this should be a study by a Commission consisting of others in addition to theologians, whose purpose was to examine the theological implications of this problem, and to be in consultation with the officers of the C.C.I.A. primarily in regard to particular issues where the political and theological approaches converged? It was clearly understood by the Department that the Commission was of the latter kind. A question was raised as to whether the Commission was bound by the suggested date for the final report, namely 1957. IT WAS AGREED that the Executive Committee does not wish the Commission to be bound by that date.

In regard to the proposed consultation " The World and the Church under the Lordship of Christ " which had been authorised by the Central Committee, the report presented some broad questions to form the frame work of the consultation. Discussion revealed that there was considerable ambiguity in these questions, partocularly in regard to the following:

a. The use of the "New Testament" instead of "Scriptures".
b. The meaning of the phrase "Double solidarity".
c. The use of the word "World" in differing senses.

IT WAS AGREED that the wording of the questions was not entirely satisfactory and that the Executive reaffirm the statement of the Central Committee as follows:

"the particular point of reference therefore concerns the meaning which the Lordship of Christ has for the relation between the church and the world".

The report also outlined plans for a conference in July entitled "Section 3 - Section 4 Conference" to bring together people involved in the discussion of the matters examined by the sections of the Evanston Assembly dealing with the Responsible Society and International Affairs. In answer to a question by Prof.Hromadka, Dr.Nolde indicated that the C.C.I.A. had cooperated in the preparation of the conference.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the endeavours to secure reports from selected individuals throughout the world on the extent to which there had been any effective follow-up of the main theme of the Assembly. Dr.Bilheimer was preparing a report, part of which would be based on statements from 40 individuals selected from among the Evanston delegates.

Dr.Bliss particularly requested that the utmost care should be taken to make clear the nature of the statements when they were published. If they were received from individuals expressing a personal opinion, such opinion should not be attributed to any particular church . She also suggested that after each statement quoted there should be an indication of the nature and size of the document from which it originated.

IT WAS AGREED that the report should include a representative bibliography of all documents quoted and/or important books and articles about Evanston.

Dr.Bliss also referred to the difficulties of church secretaries in receiving communications from the World Council in deciding the relative importance of each inquiry received, and asked whether means could be devised to give certain documents priority.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft indicated that the primary document addressed to the member churches was always the annual letter sent out about September conveying the major decisions of the Central Committee.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported on the progress of the Rapid Social Change study. There was great interest in this subject among many churches. He had found in Indonesia that the churches had four main concerns:

a. The Christian answer to Communism ;
b. The improvement of standards of village life ;
c. The approach to the industrial workers ;
d. The meaning of the non-theocratic state.

But such churches were not interested in these studies in an academic way but were concerned to receive guidance from other churches which had grappled in a practical way with the same problems. It was suggested that packages of literature might be sent in answer to requests from such churches.

Dean Pope intimated that a new evangelical institute in Japan was devoting some of its energy to the study of the concerns of the Church and Society Commission.

The report raised a number of issues concerning the field to be studied by the Commission for comments by the Executive.

The first concerned the main categories of the study. In discussion certain suggestions were made of matters which might be studied in addition to those listed, viz., the meaning of "responsible emancipation" for responsible citizenship; village and rural life; the problems of urbanisation; the impact of foreign enterprise and international assistance.

Dr.Payne suggested that the rate of change for Christian churches and societies was often slower than that in the community about them. Most disturbing for some relatively primitive people was the effect of the rapid change to the most modern methods of communication.

Dr.Bliss said that while some were definitely opposed to including the problem of rapidly increasing population as a definite category of study, the matter should be carefully watched and investigated.

Dean Pope suggested that the listed categories had not emphasised sufficiently that our primary interest is in the Church's relationship to these topics rather than the total field that they suggest.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the concern of such churches as the Batak Church for a clear statement regarding Communism and Bishop Dibelius indicated that such a statement would have universal usefulness. Dr.Visser 't Hooft mentioned existing books such as Dr.John Bennett's book and a leaflet by Dr.Charles Forman.

The Metropolitan Juhanon suggested that social witness of the churches as expressed within the ecumenical movement since Oxford 1937 had by no means been fully understood by the churches.

Dean Pope pointed out that study as understood in the World Council was not primarily academic research but "policy study" which might involve some research incidentally.

IT WAS AGREED to recommend to the Commission that wherever possible they should provide already available information and literature to churches involved in rapid social change, with a view to helping them with their own local problems. In the course of the discussion, considerable support was given to the suggestion that a simple brochure in regard to Communism should be prepared. It WAS ALSO AGREED, on the suggestion of Bishop De Mel, that similar consideration should be given to the preparation of material on "Statism". Bishop De Mel pointed out that quite apart from Communism, a State with good intentions sometimes claims a part of a Christian's life which he can never surrender.

The Executive commends these suggestions to the consideration of the Commission but makes no particular judgment about their priority.

The second question concerned the theological points to be discussed in the Study. Bishop Barbieri urged that one of the main issues should be the Christian evaluation of the individual person in relation to the life of society. Dr.Payne suggested the relationship of rapid social change to the doctrine of the church.

IT WAS AGREED however that it was impossible to enumerate at this time the doctrinal aspects because these would depend in large measure on the particular facets of social change being studied.

The third concern was with the geographical areas which should be principally investigated. A number of areas were already suggested.

The question was raised whether it was right to include three areas from Africa and in particular the inclusion of the Copper Belt when an authoritative study had already been made of the area by Dr.Merle Davis. It was also suggested that if only a section of Nigeria could be investigated, it would be useful to concentrate on the northern area where there was aggressive Mohammedanism.

In connection with Missionary Studies, it was pointed out that an investigation was already being carried out in Japan along similar lines to those suggested.

IT WAS AGREED that a conference on non-Christian religions was desirable.

3. Greetings to certain Orthodox Churches

Bishop James indicated that after the meetings of the Executive he would be visiting churches in certain parts of Asia, and a number of Orthodox Churches in the Middle East and Africa. The Chairman expressed the great interest of the Executive in these particular visits and IT WAS AGREED that Bishop James be authorised to convey the greetings and goodwill of the Executive to the Churches which he was about to visit.

14. Meeting of the Central Committee in 1956

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported that a number of members of the Executive were in Hungary in September 1955 and discussions took place concerning the arrangements for the next Central Committee. It was mutually agreed that the meeting should be held in the country and the best location seemed to be Matrahaza. No final confirmation of this choice had yet been received from the Hungarian leaders.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft also reported news from Washington indicating that at the present time severe restrictions were placed upon the Americans so far as going to Hungary was concerned and talks with the Hungarian Government had been cancelled.

A discussion took place on what steps should be taken if it was found impossible for American members to attend. In connection with the Evanston Assembly the principle had been adopted that the Assembly would be moved if the U.S.Government had prevented any substantial number of delegates from entering the country, but that it would not be moved if delegates were prevented by their own Governments from attending. Professor Hromadka pointed out that it was also a matter of clear principle that if the American members of the Central Committee were not permitted to enter Hungary, the holding of the meeting there was impossible.

Prof.Hromadka indicated also that he believed we should proceed on the assumption that it would be possible to hold the meeting in Hungary. He reported that Bishop Péter of Hungary had informed him that a Committee had been set up to make preparations for the meeting and accomodation would be arranged for members and their wives. He hoped that some members would pass through Prague on their way and he was assured that every facility would be made available by the Government.

IT WAS AGREED that the Executive should note that it had been arranged by its representatives in Hungary with the local church leaders that the meeting of the Central Committee should be in Matrahaza and trust that this decision can be confirmed.

In regard to the press, assurance had been received that press representatives would be admitted. A considerable discussion concerning the difficult issues that might be involved in press representation took place. IT WAS AGREED that the Executive should adhere to its past practice and it was therefore assumed :

a. that the Executive does not accept responsibility for the securing of press visas;
b. that only limited accomodation will be available for press representatives ;
c. that the General Secretariat would follow past precedent of accrediting certain reporters;
d. that the whole matter would be discussed with representatives of the Hungarian Churches.

Executive Committee

Bishop Péter had invited the Executive Committee preceding the Central Committee to meet in Budapest, but IT WAS AGREED that in order to secure the necessary opportunity for close attention to business the meeting should be held in Vienna.

IT WAS AGREED that member churches in the area should be encouraged to exercise their right to send a representative and that the presence of guests from selected non-member churches would be welcome at the meeting of the Central Committee and it was left to the General Secretary to issue invitations with the understanding that members of the Executive Committee could recommend to the General Secretary churches which they thought should receive such invitations.

No decision had yet been made concerning the theme or themes to be given special attention. The Staff Executive Group had suggested the following possibilities :

a. The Lordship of Christ over the Church and the World.
b. Proselytism and Religious Liberty
c. A revised form of the statement made at Toronto on the subject The Church, the Churches and the World Council of Churches.

Hungarian leaders had asked Prof.Hromadka to request that the main theme be -

d. Prevention of War in an Atomic Age.

Considerable discussion took place in which Dr.Fry suggested that the Toronto statement might serve as a second theme and Bishop James indicated that it was most urgent. Prof.Hromadka suggested that it might be more appropriate to keep the Lordship of Christ theme until the next Assembly. Dr.Visser 't Hooft and Dr.Nolde both pointed out that to make Prevention of War the main theme would inevitably cause a clash of points of view and the making of statements which might seriously embarrass people in Hungary. Dr.Visser 't Hooft suggested that the kind of discussion on international affairs which might be possible would have to be positive in form such as either -

a. The Churches and the building of a responsible international society in the atomic age ; or
b. A responsible international society in the atomic age.

Bishop Dibelius and others expressed preference for this suggestion, particularly in the first form. Dr.Nolde pointed out that we should look carefully at any subject on international affairs, for all such subjects would reflect the divergence of approach to the responsible society.

Dr.Payne questioned whether the statement on "The Church, the Churches, and the World Council" contained adequate issues for major discussion and suggested that it be referred to a sub-committee rather than be taken as a main theme. It was agreed that this should be done and that the document as revised by the Staff Working Party should be circulated among the papers for the Central Committee.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft suggested that "Proselytism and Religious Liberty" should be the first theme and that the second should be "The Churches and the building of a responsible international society". IT WAS AGREED that these should be the main themes.

Prof.Hromadka asked whether this would allow opportunity for discussion of the prevention of war, and it was pointed out that such a discussion would be included in two ways, firstly as part of the second main theme, and, secondly, in the presentation and discussion of the C.C.I.A. report which would include such matters as disarmament.
IT WAS AGREED that the selection of those who would present the main theme should be left in the hands of the officers of the Executive and the General Secretary.

15. Future Meetings of the Central and Executive Committees
Dean Pope explained the proposals regarding the meeting of the two Committees at the Yale Divinity School in 1957. It was suggested that the Executive meet at Seabury House, 45 miles from Yale, and the Central Committee at the Divinity School. The proposed dates were:

Executive Committee : From 4 p.m. on July 27 until noon on July 29

Central Committee : Evening of July 30 to August 7

Dean Pope referred to the desire of the American Seminaries to organise a number of Theological Institutes before or after these meetings.

Central Committee and Executive Committee 1958
Bishop James presented an invitation from the Ecumenical Patriarch that the Central Committee be held on the Island of Rhodes. He suggested also that the Executive Committee should meet at Istanbul. IT WAS AGREED after discussion that the following dates be suggested, subject to accomodation and transport difficulties being overcome:

Executive Committee : August 13 to 15 at Istanbul
Central Committee : August 19 to 27 in Rhodes.

Executive Committee 1957 It was agreed that it be held in Geneva February 4 - 8.

Executive Committee 1958 It was agreed that it be held somewhere in the British Isles, February 10 - 14.

Bishop Barbieri expressed the hope that at some time the meetings might be held in Latin America or in Africa.

16. Arrangements for next Assembly
In introducing this subject, Dr.Visser 't Hooft indicated that although it was a long time till 1960, it was becoming increasingly necessary to give at least preliminary consideration to the question of place and date of the next Assembly. Although an invitation had already been received to hold the Assembly in Berlin, it had already been decided that preference should be given to a location in Asia; and investigations indicated that the best possibility was to hold the Assembly in Ceylon.

It was suggested that the meetings should centre on the National University at Peradeniya. Both Dr.Robert Mackie and the General Secretary were convinced, after visiting Ceylon, that this location had much to comment it. Dr.Mackie had had an encouraging interview with the Prime Minister. Bishop De Mel spoke in support of the invitation and reported that the University is completely modern in equipment with adequate dining and sleeping accomodation. The new gymnasium when completed would be quite large enough for full meetings. The securing of translators might be difficult but several Embassies could give assistance. The Bishop enquired how much money the local churches would be asked to raise.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft made further reference to the adequate buildings but suggested that there were three problems to be overcome.

a. The distance between some of the buildings;
b. The time of the year which would be most suitable;
c. The matter of a building conveniently placed for daily worship.

IT WAS AGREED that the General Secretary should prepare a detailed proposal after consultation with the churches in Ceylon for report to the Central Committee of 1956 if possible.

IT WAS AGREED that if held in Ceylon, the Assembly should be held over the period including Christmas Day. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should be asked to guide the Executive regarding the probable cost of the Assembly.

IT WAS AGREED that the Committee on Rules of Debate and Procedure for the Third Assembly as referred to in Item 24 of the Davos Central Committee Minutes consist of Bishop Oxnam(Chairman), Professor J. Baillie, Dr.M.Niemöller and Metropolitan Juhanon and that Dr.Bilheimer would report to that Committee. Dr.Bliss raised the question as to what kind of assistance could be given to the churches in Ceylon with regard to the financing and organising of the Assembly. Bishop De Mel indicated that they would be glad to accept such assistance.

Department of Information

Mr.Frank Northam presented the report of the Department and referred to the very great contribution being made by Mr.John Garrett formerly of Australia. The flow of press releases and feature stories had been maintained and increased. Mr.John Taylor was building up a photographic library. Recent publications handled by the Department such as the Bulletin of the Division of Studies, were of much improved quality of format and it was hoped that this standard could be maintained. Considerable discussion took place in regard to the importance of providing material on the World Council and its projects in Spanish and Portuguese. Mr.Northam reported that small financial grants had been provided for this purpose but that the Department did not have the facilities to provide many translations or to finance them.

The Youth Department has a Bulletin which appears in Spanish five times a year.

Bishop Barbieri offered to arrange for the translation, especially of press releases and feature stories, if they could be sent to South America for the purpose. He would also give any necessary advice regarding the translations of more important works.

Mr.Northam referred to an experiment which was being conducted by which all the publications of the Department were being sent to certain people at their request on the understanding that a single account would be sent out at the end of each year.

IT WAS AGREED that on behalf of the Executive, the Chairman write to Mr.John Garrett conveying greetings and appreciation of his work.

18. Staffing Committee

Dr.Payne presented the report of the Committee. It was reported:

1. that Mr. Du Val would commence work in February in the place of Mr.Tillman.
2. that Miss Helen Turnbull would start her work in the near future in the Department of Co-operation of Men and Women in Church and Society.
3. Miss Engnes will be resigning on her marriage in September.

In regard to future appointments it was reported that Miss Frances Maeda was leaving the Youth Department in New York and it was recommended that the Rev.Philip Potter be seconded to New York for one year as from September.

In view of the fact that the Rev.B.-Th.Molander was travelling in South America in 1957 it was agreed that Mr.M.Costil be appointed part time to the Youth Department in Geneva from October 1956. The terms to be cleared with the officers of the Executive.

In connection with the Commission on Areas of Rapid Social Change, it was recommended that Mr.M.M.Thomas be appointed for part time work in Asia, Mr.Kitagawa be appointed as assistant to Mr.Paul Abrecht for two years from Spring 1956 and that Mr.John Karefa-Smart be appointed for work in Africa for 18 months full time.

These recommendations regarding the appointment of staff were approved.

19. Letter from the Patriarch of Moscow

A letter which had been received was read and its cordiality was appreciated by members of the Executive. The letter expressed a strong desire for closer contacts with World Council leaders although it expressed no specific invitation or suggestion. Dr.Blake reported on the plans for an exchange of visits by U.S. and U.S.S.R.church leaders. Nine U.S.Protestant leaders would spend 10 days in Russia and it was expected that a Russian delegation would return the visit in June. The U.S. leaders were selected by the N.C.C.C. USA. Dr Fry raised the question as to whether when he was in Russia with the U.S.delegation he should discuss informally the reception of the World Council letter. His name was one of those specifically mentioned on the letter. Naturally a purely U.S. delegation could not speak on behalf of the World Council officially. But it was understood that if the opportunity were available, Dr.Fry would discuss in informal conversation the question of contact with the World Council of Churches. In answer to a question it was explained that the correspondence to and from Moscow had been published in both Orthodox and Evangelical magazines in Russia

20. Report of the New York Office

Dr.Visser 't Hooft read the report which set out the plans for the Faith and Order Conference in 1957 on "The Nature of the Unity we seek" It was also planned to hold a number of "Ecumenical Institutes" at the time of the Central Committee Meeting in 1957.

21. Membership in the World Council of Churches

The General Secretary raised two major questions which related to membership in the World Council. The first concerned the numerical strength required of a church before it was regarded as adequate. The second concerned the degree of autonomy of a particular church before it could qualify.

The Chairman pointed out that in regard to size it was understood that decisions would have to be made separately in each case and that the General Secretary would consult the Executive in regard to each application. Smallness alone does not debar the church from membership.

There was considerable discussion in regard to the question of autonomy and this was felt to be an important issue in view of the fact that there are certain areas of the world where the World Council has few if any members. IT WAS AGREED that a staff working party in Geneva should gather and collate further information regarding this matter for later study by the Executive.

Ethnic and Racial Relations

The following resolution was carried unanimously :
" In view of the position against segregation which the World Council of Churches has proclaimed in previous statements particularly in the report and resolutions on Ethnic and Racial Relations at the Second Assembly in Evanston, the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches welcomes the series of decisions on desegregation by the Supreme Court of the United States as a significant and heartening step towards the realisation of equal rights for all men without distinction as to race and colour.

For the same reasons the Committee notes with appreciation that member churches of the World Council in the United States and other church bodies including many in areas where severe opposition is encountered, are by word and deed steadfastly seeking to bring practice into conformity with the standard which the decision has set. We equally acknowledge the long history of positive action by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America and the positive leadership which the Council is expressing at the present time.

The attention of the Executive Committee has been called to the hardships endured by certain pastors and their families, and also by citizens in various walks of life as a result of their efforts to give effect to the decisions of the Supreme Court. We are grateful that the National Council is informing the churches in the United States about the situation and is making help available to those who are suffering because of their courageous stand.

We assure all our Christian brethren who are involved in this difficult situation that in the solidarity of our Christian fellowship we hold a common belief in the equal dignity of men in God's sight.

We express sympathy with those who are in distress and we remember them in our prayers. Without minimising the difficulties to be surmounted we are confident that the rightness of the goal justifies continuing effort to achieve it in wisdom and in brotherly love."

3. National Councils of Churches

The General Secretary reported that none of the member churches had objected to the prepared list of N.C.C.'s, which were to be regarded as associated councils.

4. Finance

The report of the Finance Sub-Committee was presented by its chairman, Dr.Blake. The report as presented is set out below, and the discussion and action of the Executive Committee is recorded after each section of the report .

a) FIRST ESTIMATE OF 1955 GENERAL BUDGET RESULTS

" The Sub-Committee received full detailed estimates of expenses on the General Budget in 1955 totalling $ 435,447 and was informed that, allowing for expenses as yet unrecorded, the final total might be $ 441,500 or $ 5,000 less than the approved level.

Revenu for 1955 was estimated as follows :

| | |
|---|---|
| From member churches | $ 407,800 |
| Interest on investments | 3,300 |
| From Inter-Church Aid Division for: | |
| Information Department | 13,000 |
| Divisional Staff | 12,446 |
| | $ 436,546 |

The first estimate thus suggested a deficit of about $ 5000. The estimates presented at Davos in August 1955 had foreseen a deficit between $ 9,200 and $ 19,200.

The report was discussed by the Finance Sub-Committee with the participation of the guests from Australia and New Zealand and supplementary information was given in answer to questions. During the discussion, it was pointed out that some member churches had no awareness that they were responsible for the travel expenses of those of their members who are members of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. It was agreed that a communication should be sent from Geneva to all member churches concerned defining responsibility for these travel expenses (including accomodation costs) and further that copies of invitations to meetings should as a regular procedure be sent to those member churches.

The Finance Sub-Committee agreed to recommend :

That provided that the final deficit on the General Budget for 1955 does not exceed $ 10,000, it be covered in accordance with the decision taken by the Central Committee at Davos by a withdrawal from the General Reserve of the Ecumenical Institute."

Dr.Blake pointed out that the recommendation would involve a withdrawal of about $ 5,000 from the Reserve for the Institute ,whereas in 1954 a withdrawal of $ 35,000 had been made; thus a considerable step had been taken towards covering the expenses of the Institute from current revenu and the Reserve for the Institute would be reduced from about $ 50,000 to about $ 45,000.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendation

b) LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE UNDER GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1956

" A detailed statement was received by the Sub-Committee setting out a suggested level of expenditure under the General Budget for 1956 totalling $ 453,400, or the same amount as the total of the budget for 1956 approved by the Central Committee at Davos in August 1955.

The Sub-Committee was informed that income of $ 443,460 could confidently be expected in 1956 comprising:

| | |
|---|---|
| From member churches | $ 416,800 |
| Interest on investments | 4,900 |
| From Inter-Church Aid division for: | |
| Information Department | 13,000 |
| Divisional Staff | 8,760 |
| | $ 443,460 |

The approval of the suggested level of expenditure thus involved a deficit on the 1956 operations of about $ 10,000, on present information. At the time of the Central Committee meeting at Davos the possibility of a deficit of between $ 11,400 and $ 16,400 had been foreseen and the Central Committee had approved provisionally measures to be taken to meet a deficit of such a magnitude.

The Finance Sub-Committee agreed to recommend

That approval be given for operations to be conducted on the basis of the suggested 1956 level of expenditure totalling $ 453,400, the details of which are set out in Appendix A and B.

In making this recommendation, the Finance Sub-Committee noted that if there was a deficit on the 1956 operation, it could, in accordance with the decisions of the Central Committee meeting at Davos, be met by either or both of the following possibilities :

i) A withdrawal from the General Reserve of the Ecumenical Institute of such amount as would result in a total withdrawal in 1955 and 1956 of not more than $ 10,000 from that reserve.
ii) A reduction of the allocation to the General Reserve of the World Council in 1956 from $ 20,000 as provided in the suggested expenditure level. (Since the full allocation of $ 20,000 to the reserve will have been made in 1955, it would be permissible under the action of the Central Committee to find up to $ 20,000 from this source if that should prove necessary.)"

Dr.Pope questioned the adequacy of $ 4,500 for the Far Eastern Secretariat; it was explained that half of the cost of that office is borne by I.M.C. and that the budget could be reconsidered by I.M.C. and W.C.C. next summer if increased finances were needed as a result of action following the Bangkok consultation. Dr.Bliss asked whether priorities should be determined for the possibilities of meeting a deficit; Dr.Blake suggested that the question would best be considered at the next meeting. Dr.Blake further suggested that the staff be directed to study the adequacy of the provision for repairs and replacements of property and equipment in the Bossey budget.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendation.

c) SPECIAL RESERVE

" The Sub-Committee was informed that in 1956, and possibly even in 1955, the total contributions of the member churches in the U.S.A. might exceed the objective of $ 310,000 set for their giving

by the Evanston Assembly, and noted that, if that should happen, any excess over $ 310,000 would, in accordance with past decisions, be allocated to Special Reserve."

The Executive Committee received this report.

d) FIRST ESTIMATES OF 1956 RESULTS UNDER THE SERVICE PROGRAMME - Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees

"The Central Committee meeting in Davos in August 1955 was informed that the operations in 1954 had ended with a deficit of about $ 150,000 and that an additional deficit of about $ 50,000 must be foreseen in 1955, so that the accumulated deficit at end 1955 would amount to about $ 200,000. The Sub-Committee was informed that the first estimates of actual results for 1955 confirmed the soundness of those earlier estimates.

The Central Committee had been further informed at Davos that the deficit position was due to special difficulties which had arisen in connection with the programme for immigration to the U.S.A. under the Refugee Relief Act and that, if by the completion of that programme early in 1957 grants had been received in respect of 14,000 movements under R.R.A., the deficit would be reduced, but would remain at about $ 100,000.

The Sub-Committee was informed that the position had been reviewed by the Administrative Committee of the Division at its meeting on January 3 and 4,1956 and an encouraging report on prospective movements under R.R.A. had been presented to that meeting. The Administrative Committee, recognising all the uncertainties and dangers of the position, had however felt that it was still right to keep to the Davos estimates and the forecast of a deficit of $ 100,000 at the end of the R.R.A. programme, on the basis of about 14,000 grant-earning movements. The Sub-Committee accepted the judgement of the Administrative Committee of the Division and noted that the question would be reviewed again by that Committee in April.

It was reported that there was discussion in some quarters of a possible extension of R.R.A. and a re-allocation to other countries of un-used quotas under the original act. The Sub-Committee discussed this possibility and agreed to recommend :

> That the Executive Committee direct that , in the event of action being taken to extend R.R.A., the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees shall accept no responsibility for a continuing programme except after securing the approval of the officers of the Central Committee and the Chairman of the Finance Committee."

Dr.Blake reported that movements to the end of 1955 under R.R.A. had fallen 600 or 700 short of the total of 4,000 which had been hoped for by that date. There still seemed to be reason to hope that the total of 14,000 might be reached or exceeded before the end of the programme but it would be premature to base financial estimates on higher figures.

The Executive Committee took note of this report and agreed to adopt the above recommendation.

e) TRAVEL LOAN FUND

" The Central Committee meeting at Davos in August 1955 had been informed that at end May the Travel Loan Fund showed an overdraft of about $ 140,000 but that it was expected that that overdraft would be reduced to about $ 50,000 by the end of 1955.

The Administrative Committee of the Division meeting on October 31 and November 1,1955 had faced a seriously deteriorated position and the forecast of an overdraft of as much as $ 494,000 by the end of 1955. The chief reason for this financial deterioration had been an unforeseen upsurge in movements under the loan fund to Australia. The Administrative Committee had noted that the capital position of the fund was nonetheless sound but had received the report with deep concern and had taken action to control and remedy the position.

At its meeting on January 3 and 4 , 1956, the Administrative Committee of the Division had been informed that the first estimates of the actual position at end 1955 were slightly better than the October forecast and indicated an overdraft of about $ 380,000.

The Sub-Committee received a statement showing the estimated results for 1955 and the planned programme for 1956 and 1957 and discussed the position in detail. The Sub-Committee examined the action taken by the Administrative Committee of the Division and agreed to recommend the following resolution:

The Executive Committee shares the deep concern expressed by the Administrative Committee of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees in reference to the substantial overdraft on the Travel Loan Fund. The Executive Committee notes with gratitude the financial assistance granted by I.C.E.M. to aid the World Council in the financing of that fund. The Executive Committee further notes with approval the action directed by the Administrative Committee and taken by the staff to ensure adequate control of movements and of loans granted and to ensure that the overdraft does not at any point of time exceed the budgeted levels. The Executive Committee approves and endorses the decision of the Administrative Committee that operations under the Travel Loan Fund be so conducted that the overdraft be eliminated in any event by end 1957 and, if possible at an earlier date and requests the Administrative Committee to keep the position under review and to take steps to strengthen controls if at any time this appears necessary."

Dr.Blake explained that the capital position of the Travel Loan Fund was sound but the cash position difficult. Until Autumn 1955, it had been possible to assist virtually all for whom movement possibilities could be found; from then on it had been found necessary to impose controls and limit loans granted according to financial possibilities. Pre-payments and repayments received in 1955 had totalled more than $ 800,000 - an indication of the size of this operation. The position could be corrected rapidly if the financial consideration was the only one of importance but in view of all other factors, including the moral responsibility to the refugees, the proposed policy seemed right.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendation.

f) BUDGET FOR THIRD ASSEMBLY

" As a special remit from the Executive Committee, the Sub-Committee gave preliminary consideration to the financial aspects of the decision to hold the Third Assembly in Ceylon. No draft budget had been prepared in advance; the Sub-Committee therefore made the following very brief and tentative estimates of possible costs, on the basis of the cost of the Second Assembly and of known differences between circumstances at Evanston and anticipated circumstances in Ceylon.

| | |
|---|---|
| Preparatory work and publications | $ 75,000 |
| Printing | 20,000 |
| Postage and Shipping | 10,000 |
| Travel Subsidies | 30,000 |
| Staff Travel | 30,000 |
| Assembly Expenses | 50,000 |
| Publicity | 20,000 |
| Follow-Up Expenses | 15.000 |
| | $ 250,000 |

Bishop De Mel suggested that the member churches in Ceylon, perhaps assisted by other churches in the Asian area, would endeavour to provide hospitality to all delegates and possibly others officially present at the Assembly. This generous suggestion was received with warm gratitude. It was suggested that, if that proved possible, a registration fee of $ 20 might be requested from all who attend the Assembly.

The Sub-Committee observed that the annual allocations of $ 20,000 to the reserve for the expenses of the Third Assembly would provide $ 120,000 and registration fees might provide a further $ 15,000, so that there would remain need to secure further revenue of $ 115,000. Reference was made to the possibility of securing foundation grants for preparatory and follow-up work and to the possibility that as much as $ 50,000 might be accumulated in Special Reserve by 1960.

The Sub-Committee concluded that the financing of a Third Assembly in Ceylon in 1960 did not appear to present insuperable difficulties and to request that the question be studied in detail and presented for closer examination to the Central Committee meeting in August."

Dr.Blake emphasised the fact that the tentative estimates given in the report did not represent a budget and that no authorisation of expenditure was requested. Further study would be needed before a proposed budget could be submitted.

The Executive Committee took note of the conclusions reached by the Sub-Committee and welcomed with gratitude Bishop De Mel's suggestion that hospitality might be offered to the delegates and others officially present at the Assembly by the Churches of Ceylon and other churches in the Asian area.

g) HEADQUARTERS PROPERTIES

" The Sub-Committee received a report on developments since the Davos meetings. The acquisition of 19a - 23 Route de Malagnou had not proved possible at the present time. Careful study of possibilities had led to the conclusion that notwithstanding the affirmative answer given to the question at the Davos meeting, it was questionable at least to a substantial minority whether satisfactory Headquarters buildings sufficient for present and longer term needs could be planned on the properties 17 - 19 Route de Malagnou, at present owned by the World Council. Negotiations had therefore been conducted with the cantonal and municipal authorities in Geneva with a view to securing the adjoining property on the other side of the World Council properties - 15 Route de Malagnou - which is at present owned by the municipal authorities. These negotiations were continuing and the authorities had given the most explicit assurance of their desire and intention to do everything possible to assist the World Council in this matter.

It was suggested to the Sub-Committee that before finalising plans to carry out a scheme estimated to cost $ 750,000 and which might well be followed by further substantial expenditures in later years, it would be prudent and wise to have a survey made to examine whether a more advantageous site might be available elsewhere in Geneva. It was pointed out that such a survey could be completed in very few weeks and therefore would involve no significant delay in the advancement of the planning of the development of Headquarters properties.

The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend -

i) That the Executive Committee direct the staff to make a study of possible sites which may be available for Headquarters properties and to report the results of the survey to the members of the Ad Hoc Headquarters Properties Committee.

ii) The staff be authorised to employ such help as may be necessary for the conduct of that survey, the expenses to be charged to the gift of Mr.John D.Rockefeller Jr. of $ 10,000 for the preparatory work on the planning of Headquarters property development.

The Sub-Committee recognised that it was possible that the negotiations with the authorities might have to be delayed until the survey had been completed. It might however be possible to continue negotiations simultaneously with the conduct of the survey and it would be necessary to continue them if the survey revealed no suitable alternative side. The Sub-Committee therefore agreed to recommend the adoption of the following resolution for use at the appropriate time.

The Executive Committee directed the General Secretary and the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration to continue discussions with and seek the further assistance of the appropriate authorities of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and of the City of Geneva with a view to finding a solution which would meet with the approval of the authorities and

would permit satisfactory long-term plans for the development of Headquarters properties and to submit such plans to the next meeting of the Executive and Central Committees (July 26 to August 5,1956).

The Sub-Committee recognised that this report might give to member churches the impression that the need for the building fund had become less urgent than at the time of the Davos meeting. The Davos action had however called on member churches to seek to raise $ 300,000 within the succeeding three years and the decision taken at Davos to construct at the earliest possible date new Headquarters buildings was in no way modified either by the difficulties which had arisen or by the proposal to survey possible alternative sites. The need for increased office space was urgent and the urgency of the need to raise the agreed building fund remained as real as at the time of the Davos meeting.

The Sub-Committee was advised that sufficient time had not passed since the Davos meeting for many churches to have taken final action to vote their contributions to the building fund but a number of encouraging reports had been received and four American churches and the Church of Finland had given firm assurances that contributions suggested to them would be provided. In addition, the Women's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church had voted a gift of $ 25,000 which represented the first gift towards the sum of $ 450,000 to be raised from individuals, foundations, etc. "

The Executive Committee received the above report and welcomed with gratitude to the donor churches and organisations the news of the contributions already guaranteed towards the building fund. The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the recommandations set out above.

h) INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

" The Sub-Committee reviewed the investment port-folio which was unchanged and recalled earlier discussions of the desirability of investing a part of the permanent reserves in equities as a hedge against inflation and also to secure a higher interest return. It was agreed that no action be taken at this time but that the matter be reviewed again when the total reserves reach the level of $ 250,000."

The Executive Committee received this report.

i) BORROWING POWERS

" It was recalled that at the last two meetings of the Executive Committee resolutions in the following form had been adopted :

> ' That authority be given until the next meeting of the Executive Committee to the General Secretary or his stated representative acting together with the Director of Finance and Administration to borrow money if necessary against the World Council's investments to provide the necessary funds to maintain the operations of the Service to Refugees.'

The Sub-Committee was advised no action had in the past proved necessary under this authorisation and that it was hoped that the need would not arise in the nextperiod. The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend:

That the above authority be renewed for the period up to the Executive Committee meeting in July 1956".

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendation.

j) BANK SIGNATORIES

"The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend :

That the Guaranty Trust Company of New York as designated depositary of the World Council of Churches be and it is authorised and directed to pay cheques and other orders for the payment of money, including those drawn to the individual order of a signer, when signed by any two of the following officers signing jointly: the General Secretary, the three Associate General Secretaries stationed in Geneva, the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration and the Chief Accountant."

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt this recommendation .

k) SOLICITATION OF FUNDS FROM SPECIAL SOURCES

" It was reported to the Sub-Committee that a number of proposals for the solicitation of funds from special sources, particularly on behalf of the Division of Ecumenical Action, had been submitted to the General Secretary and the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

In considering such proposals in relation to the principles laid down by the Executive Committee in February 1955 and confirmed by the Central Committee in August 1955, particular attention was being given to the avoidance of any embarrassment by reason of approaches to the same source in the name of more than one World Council Department. The Sub-Committee was reminded that the maintenance of the full programme approved by the Evanston Assembly within the budgetary limitations imposed by revenue under the General Budget, was dependent on the availability of special funds. The Sub-Committee took note of this information on which no action was required."

The Executive Committee received this report.

1) PERSONNEL QUESTIONS

i. Salary Scales for Secretariat Staff

" The Sub-Committee received a report from the Ad Hoc Headquarters Salaries Committee on salaries and salary scales for the Secretarial Staff. The report recommended extensive revisions designed to bring all salaries into appropriate relationship with other salaries and to raise to some extent the salaries levels generally. After full discussion and the revision of one recommendation, the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend approval of the proposals of the Ad Hoc Headquarters Salaries Committee, as revised."

ii. Personnel Questions

" The Sub-Committee received a number of recommendations which are recorded in a confidential minute and agreed to recommend approval of the proposal covering salary increases for three members of the office staff, home leave entitlement for four married members of the Secretarial Staff and special arrangements regarding removal and furniture storage expenses for one member of the Secretarial Staff.

iii. Retirement Pension Plans

" The Sub-Committee was informed that there were no definite proposals under this heading but that the question was under study and it was hoped to bring forward proposals at a later date. Any proposals would almost certainly involve increased expense; as an illustration of the magnitude of the problem, it was reported that an additional contribution of 5% of salary by the World Council would involve an addition of about $ 10,000 to the General Budget. The Sub-Committee took note of these facts and discussed the problem in a preliminary way. No action was taken."

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations under i) and ii) above.

Appendix A

# WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

## First Estimate of Expenditure on General Budget for 1955 and Suggested Annual Expenditure Level for 1956

Swiss Francs

| | 1955 | | 1956 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Budget | Estimated Actual | Budget (Davos) | Suggested Expenditure Level |
| **General Secretariat:** | | | | |
| Geneva Fr. | 262,567 | 251,639 | 237,837 | 240,122 |
| New York | 196,880 | 179,854 | 196,880 | 188,320 |
| Far East | 19,260 | 18,100 | 19,260 | 19,260 |
| Joint Committee IMC/WCC | 14,980 | 12,000 | 14,980 | 16,050 |
| (sub-total) | (493,687) | (461,593) | (468,957) | (463,752) |
| **Division of Studies:** | | | | |
| Divisional Staff | 122,950 | 121,867 | 117,450 | 130,000 |
| Faith and Order | 54,675 | 54,951 | 54,575 | 59,350 |
| Church and Society | 54,800 | 49,890 | 53,100 | 43,000 |
| Evangelism | 27,700 | 21,927 | 27,700 | 26,000 |
| (sub-total) | (260,125) | (248,635) | (252,825) | (258,350) |
| **Division of Ecumenical Action:** | | | | |
| Divisional Staff | 28,700 | 21,574 | 53,100 | 56,500 |
| Ecumenical Institute | 250,988 | 247,907 | 256,800 | 256,800 |
| Youth : Geneva | 82,350 | 92,542 | 80,350 | 86,350 |
| New York | 59,920 | 58,268 | 59,920 | 61,200 |
| Laity | 24,950 | 25,240 | 40,400 | 40,750 |
| Co-operation of Men and Women | 38,550 | 42,709 | 38,550 | 39,600 |
| (sub-total) | (485,458) | (488,240) | (529,120) | (541,200) |
| **Division of Inter-Church Aid:** | | | | |
| Divisional Staff | 47,000 | 53,267 | 37,500 | 37,500 |
| Library | 19,200 | 19,494 | 21,200 | 21,900 |
| Department of Information | 165,900 | 167,790 | 169,900 | 171,750 |
| Finance and Administration | - | - | - | - |
| Translation Section | 26,950 | 11,994 | 26,950 | 12,000 |
| Grant to CCIA | 214,000 | 214,000 | 235,400 | 235,400 |
| Grant to E.P.S. | 27,500 | 27,500 | 27,500 | 27,500 |
| General Reserve | 85,600 | 85,600 | 85,600 | 85,600 |
| Reserve for next Assembly | 85,600 | 85,600 | 85,600 | 85,600 |
| Fr. | 1,911,020 | 1,863,713 | 1,940,552 | 1,940,552 |

# WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

## First Estimate of Expenditure on General Budget for 1955 and Suggested Annual Expenditure Level for 1956.

U.S. Dollars

| | 1955 | | 1956 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Budget | Estimated Actual | Budget (Davos) | Suggested Expenditure Level |
| General Secretariat: | | | | |
| Geneva | 61,347 | 58,794 | 55,570 | 56,103 |
| New York | 46,000 | 42,022 | 46,000 | 44,000 |
| Far East | 4,500 | 4,229 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| Joint Committee IMC/WCC | 3,500 | 2,804 | 3,500 | 3,750 |
| (sub-total) | (115,347) | (107,849) | (109,570) | (108,353) |
| Division of Studies: | | | | |
| Divisional Staff | 28,725 | 28,474 | 27,445 | 30,375 |
| Faith and Order | 12,775 | 12,839 | 12,750 | 13,865 |
| Church and Society | 12,804 | 11,656 | 12,405 | 10,050 |
| Evangelism | 6,472 | 5,123 | 6,472 | 6,075 |
| (sub-total) | (60,776) | (58,092) | (59,072) | (60,365) |
| Division of Ecumenical Action: | | | | |
| Divisional Staff | 6,705 | 5,041 | 12,405 | 13,200 |
| Ecumenical Institute | 58,642 | 57,923 | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| Youth : Geneva | 19,241 | 21,622 | 18,774 | 20,175 |
| New York | 14,000 | 13,614 | 14,000 | 14,300 |
| Laity | 5,830 | 5,897 | 9,440 | 9,521 |
| Co-operation of Men and Women | 9,007 | 9,978 | 9,007 | 9,252 |
| (sub-total) | ( 113,425) | (114,075) | (123,626) | (126,448) |
| Division of Inter-Church Aid: | | | | |
| Divisional Staff | 10,981 | 12,446 | 8,761 | 8,760 |
| Library | 4,486 | 4,555 | 4,953 | 5,120 |
| Department of Information | 38,762 | 39,203 | 39,695 | 40,125 |
| Translation Section | 6,298 | 2,802 | 6,298 | 2,804 |
| Finance and Administration | - | - | - | - |
| Grant to CCIA | 50,000 | 50,000 | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| Grant to E.P.S. | 6,425 | 6,425 | 6,425 | 6,425 |
| General Reserve | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Reserve for next Assembly | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| | 446,500 | 435,447 | 453,400 | 453,400 |